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I-NING LEAGUE, SINKIANG, TO
SUPPORT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

It has now been more than a year since A-ha-mai-t'i-chiang and his associates in opposition to Governor Masud Sabri returned to I-ning without a settlement. As a result, many enlightened citizens felt that an open conflict was imminent, but as matters have turned out this eventuality did not arise. On the contrary, a change in political affairs occurred. In the days of the united provincial government there were still expressions of sentiment against the Chinese and support for an East Turkestan Republic.

The reason is that the leaders of the I-ning uprising have, through experience, come to a new understanding; they have brought their activities from a disturbing emotional stage of racial conflict to that of a calm, intelligent movement for democracy.

In the first part of August 1948, the I-ning leaders, A-ha-mai-t'i-chiang and K'e-su-lo-fu, summoned in the name of the Deputy Governor a conference of various groups in Sinkiang. Out of this conference emerged a permanent organization, the League to Uphold Peace and Democracy in Sinkiang. The newspaper Wing-pao (Awake) was transferred from Ti-hua to act as a publicity organ for the new organization. The League also issued a statement, published in the magazine Ch'ien-chin (Progress) in I-ning on 21 August 1948, which represents I-ning's direct expression to the whole province of its attitude in regard to the political situation in Sinkiang.

According to the statement, the meeting in I-ning was composed of religious leaders, cultural leaders, and leaders of revolutionary youth groups who had come together to study the basic needs of the people of Sinkiang. Their conclusion was that the fundamental cause of the suffering of the people is the lack among them of genuine friendship.

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For many years past, those who held political power in Sinkiang, Yang Tseng-hsin, Chin Shu-jen, Sheng Shih-ts'ai, and Wu Chung-hsin, severely mistreated the people under their authority. Representatives of the people dared not enter government offices to express their opinions freely. The best leaders were all arrested and imprisoned. Ties among the various races in Sinkiang were broken and a feeling of mutual hostility was fostered as a means of completely subjugating the people. The people were oppressed and denied the rights of free speech, press, organization and assembly. As a result, there was a general uprising in the province in 1944, which was not settled until 1946 when delegates representing the people of Sinkiang and the Central Government signed articles of peace. In this agreement the rights of democracy and liberty for which the people had been fighting were formally recognized.

Some of the former band of unscrupulous officials retained their power, however, as in the case of Wu-sun-man and his aide Ha-li-po-k'e, and mistreatment of the people continued to a certain extent.

The statement in Ch'ien-chin also expressed the belief that the Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kirghiz, Mongols, Chinese, Moslems, Uzbeks and other races of Sinkiang can band themselves together to eliminate the hardships brought about by anarchy, deprivation of rights, and poverty, and can, thus, establish a peaceful and friendly atmosphere on a foundation of justice and freedom. By so uniting, enmity among the races and discrimination against minorities would be done away with.

The newly formed League pledges itself to establish peace and friendship among the people, to carry out the provisions of the agreement signed on 6 June 1946, and to punish those who would destroy the agreement. The following are some of the recognized objectives of the League:

1. Maintenance of freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion.
2. Equal rights to work in government organizations for all the people of Sinkiang without reference to race.
3. Free election by the people of local officials.
4. Organization of societies for the promotion of culture and the improvement of the lives of the people.
5. Establishment of additional elementary schools for education in native languages, schools for the poor and orphans with free tuition, food, and clothing, and vocational schools and institutions of higher learning for the development of specialists in economic matters.
6. Establishment of motion picture theaters and broadcasting stations.
7. Separation of the judiciary from political control to preserve their independence, and the use of native languages in conducting judicial proceedings.
8. Extension to soldiers and their families of the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the civil populace.
9. Increase in the number of medical agencies and a system of public medical care for the poor.
10. Equal rights to people of all races to private ownership of fields, pastures, houses and lots, domestic animals, industrial equipment, and all other property, movable and immovable.

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11. Improvement of irrigation and pasture land to develop agriculture and stock-raising.

The League expressed its intention to help and support to the utmost the Central Government in all true progressive measures and democratic administration. In line with its objectives, it intends to set up local groups and push its work throughout the province. The League also extended an invitation to all those who were interested in such a program to join with it, regardless of sex, race, religion, social standing or extent of private possessions.

NOTE: A long list of League founders is attached to the statement including: Deputy Governor, A-ha-mai-t'i-chiang Ha-su-lo-fu; Provincial Councillor and Commander-in-Chief, I-sha-ha-k'o-po Ma-lu-mo-fu; Provincial Councillor and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Ta-li-li-han; and Provincial Councillors, Lai-hai-mu-chiang Sha-pi-erh-a-chi, Sai-fu-ting A-tzu-tso-fu and A-pu-tu-k'e-li-mu A-pa-so-fu. According to the reporter, these and the others were all prominent leaders during the time of the coalition government, but returned to I-ning with A-ha-mai-t'i-chiang.

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